

**Executive Committee for Highway Safety
Ensuring Drivers are Fully Licensed
Working Group Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2004 – Mtg. #4**

Location:

DMV, 9:00 a.m.

Committee Members in Attendance:

Commissioner Tatum	Rob Foss	Wayne Hurder	Max Tate
Cpt.. Norman Goering	Sgt. Tim Tomczak	Cliff Braam	

Scribe:

Cliff Braam

Minutes:

- The meeting began at approximately 9:00 a.m.

Task I – ECHS Update

Commissioner Tatum gave the group a brief update on the last Executive Committee for Highway Safety (ECHS) meeting and also discussed some of the efforts of the Governor's DWI task force.

It was noted that at the last ECHS meeting, most of the meeting time was taken up by presentations from the other working groups. It was suggested that the reporting order be switched at the next meeting to allow the groups who have been last in the order, a chance to go first and have sufficient time for reporting.

Cliff told the group about the Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan conference that he, attended in Kansas last month. At the meeting, there were representatives from 47 states discussing their safety plans (same thing as N.C.'s Executive Committee for Highway Safety). Some states have not started the process yet, and of the states that have begun, most only have a plan or document and have spent a large amount of resources (people) in producing their document or work plan. Very few of these states have actually begun implementation of their plan. N.C. is still in the forefront with the progress being made within each of the various working groups that have been established.

Task II – Review of Strategies

At the last ECHS meeting, the group's strategy "Temporary Impoundment of Offender's Vehicle to Deter Repeated Violations" was approved and the group was instructed to move forward with the strategy.

Name	Item
George	We need to give this strategy to Susan Coward of DOT and have her present it to the Secretary for his approval. If it gets his approval, then we need to let Susan's staff draft the legislation.
Tim	California's law impounds the vehicle for 30 days, is our 48 hour recommendation too lenient? The thought behind having it at 48 hours is that this is not too harsh of a punishment, but rather more of an inconvenience and our impoundment will be an "across the board" action, regardless of the reason for driving while revoked.
Norman	We may find that these individuals are guilty of other offenses too and this action may help raise awareness of these other offenses, such as does the vehicle have the proper tags or registrations. Implementation of this strategy could potentially have many other positive far reaching effects. This may also be an avenue to get unsafe vehicles off of the road.
Rob	We need to get all of the important details of this strategy down on paper to give to whomever may be drafting the legislation.

This strategy will require legislative action in order for it to be carried out. It was decided that the group would ask for Susan Coward of the DOT to have her staff author the legislation for the strategy. Cliff will contact Susan to see what information she needs and the time frame in which she needs it. Tim, Norman and Cliff will put together a bulleted list of key points to be contained within the legislation utilizing the strategy and existing laws from California and Ohio.

Task III – Discussion of Next Strategy

For the next strategy, the group decided to move forward with the drafted strategy of "More Accurate Identification of Revoked Drivers". One problem with reducing the number of Driving While License Revoked (DWLR) offenders is the initial identification of these offenders by law enforcement officers. Law enforcement depends on the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) data to provide information regarding a subject's license status. Sometimes an offender provides inaccurate or partial identification to a law enforcement officer (LEO), generating a whole new DMV record and getting away with the offense of DWLR. Sometimes an offender shows a law enforcement officer a "valid" out-of-state license, but the offender is DWLR in North Carolina. This strategy would modify the computer information systems used by LEOs to greatly facilitate the identification of DWLR offenders.

Cliff will revise the current draft version of this strategy and send it out to the group for comments. This strategy if approved by the ECHS will also provide DMV with additional support for updating their records system.

Action Items:

Name	Item
Cliff	Contact Susan to and discuss with her getting the Secretary's approval for the impoundment strategy. Also see if her group will draft the required legislation and if so, what information they need and within what time frame.
Tim/Norman	Make a bulleted list of key points to be included in the legislation.
Cliff	Revise the "More Accurate Identification of Revoked Drivers" draft strategy and send out to the group for comments.

NEXT MEETING: No Date Set